

April 2016

# Laura E. Richards Correspondence

Maine State Library

Laura Elizabeth Howe Richards 1850-1943

Martha B. Robinson

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1  
RICHARDS, Laura E.

Born at Boston, February 27, 1850.

Died January 14, 1943.

April 1, 1920.

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner,  
Maine.

Dear Madam:

We are making our Library Bulletin for April a special Maine number, one section of which will present Maine writers of today.

Would you please send us a photograph and any personal notes that we can use in preparing this sketch. A prompt response to this request will be very greatly appreciated. I am

Sincerely yours,

HED/od.

23

Twenty-sixth  
January, 1922.

Dear Madam:

It may interest you to know that I am gathering in the State Library the books written by Maine authors. The purpose of this collection is that it may constitute a permanent file, not to be taken from the library but always open to the public for examination.

I am asking each author to make each book a presentation copy and so far as possible to write in each book anything that might explain the origin the book or any interesting item in connection with it. I am meeting with a very favorable and generous response from everyone. It will be a great favor if you will cooperate with us in this matter to the extent of preparing each of your own books in harmony with the above mentioned policy, and send them to the library together with your bill for the same. I am not asking any one to present their books as a gift to the library.

Please accept my thanks for anything you can do to assist me in making the collection complete.

Sincerely yours,

State Librarian.

Mrs. Henry Richards,  
3 Dennis Street,  
Gardiner, Maine.

4

Cardiner, Maine,  
January 31, 1923..

Rev. Henry E. Dunnack,  
State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Mr. Dunnack,

This is a very pleasant idea of yours, to gather the books by Maine authors in a group together. I shall be very glad to help in any way I can. Some of my sixty-odd books are out of print. Others you may already have, e. g., the Life of my father, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, in two volumes. This has been long out of print. If, as I trust, you have a copy, I shall be glad to inscribe it.

I only wish that I might present the library with a full set of my writings, but I note that you do not ask this, and to tell the truth, it would hardly be convenient, they are so many. Perhaps you will kindly let me know about the Life of my father. I will order the others in a few days and will inscribe them suitably.

Faithfully yours,

*Laura E. Richards*

First  
February, 1922.

Dear Mrs. Richards:

I was very glad to receive your letter of January the thirty-first, and to know that you would assist us in completing our list of Maine authors. I decided at the outset not to ask authors to give their books to the library.

In reference to this particular set for the Maine section, I am gathering complete sets of authors' works without regard to the volumes now in the library. These will not be disturbed but will continue in their regular place on the shelves. The books I am purchasing from each author are to be placed in a special section, and under no conditions are they to be sent out of the library. Thus any one visiting the state library will be able to see the complete works of Maine authors.

I am especially interested in the inscription. If possible tell us why or where the book was written, in fact anything of a personal or interesting nature. Fifty years from now these items will be of great importance and of the utmost value to research students.

I regret that we do not have "Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe" in two volumes. Therefore do your very best to get a copy for me. (Of course first editions are what we really want.) I am sure you will do all you can to help us make this thing worth while.

Sincerely yours,

State Librarian.

Mrs. Henry Richards,  
Gardiner,  
Maine

Gardiner, Maine,  
April 8, 1922.

Dear Mr. Dunnack,

I sent the books up by express, and I trust they have reached you safely. I am sure you will have understood and excused the delay. I enclose the bills, as you asked me to do.

I feel as if I ought to apologize for having written such an unconscionable number of books; the only excuse is that I have been writing a very long time and that some of the books are very small. It has been a pleasure to inscribe them, and I am much pleased to think of their finding a place in your collection of Maine authors.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

*Lewis Richards*

P. S.

I should add that the set is not quite complete: ~~four~~ <sup>two</sup> of my books, "The Little Master" and "A Happy Little Time" being out of print, as are also "The Hardy Gurdy" and "The Piccolo", the two latter books of children's verse.

7

Tenth  
April  
1922.

Dear Mrs. Richards:

The books reached this office a few days ago and your letter was received this morning. I have no words to thank you sufficiently for your care in inscribing your books, and the vast amount of work you have done in preparing the books for our collection.

I think, with apologies, I must tell you a little joke that grew out of the arrival of your books. When we were taking them out of the box, the shipping clerk asked several questions, because he was surprised so many books were coming from Gardiner and wanted to know why they were sent. (He is a new clerk.)

I explained something about the purpose of the Maine collection and then went on to tell him about the famous author who lived in Gardiner and I told him that these were her books. As we continued to pile them up on the table and they had gone on from twenty to thirty and were reaching sixty, he said, "All these books were written by Laura E. Richards", and I answered "Yes, sir." Then he exclaimed with staring eyes, "My Lord!! think of what a woman could do, if she would only stop talking and write."

I hesitate to ask anything further at your generous hands, but I am very anxious that this collection should be complete and I hope that you will do your best to secure the missing volumes for us. I can resist telling you of the great joy and delight of every person in our office at receiving your gift and the inscriptions. They are absolutely marvelous. You have our thanks again and continuously.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner, Maine



8  
Gardiner, Maine,  
April 28. 1922.

Rev. Henry F. Dunnack,  
State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear Mr. Dunnack:-

Many thanks for the cheque. The bills are now paid and the whole matter settled, except that I do not forget that, if it is possible for me to find copies of the missing volumes, you wish me to do so.

Always sincerely yours,

Laurel Richards

P.S.

I was greatly amused by the remark you quote, concerning the number of my books!

Twenty-sixth  
April, 1922.

Dear Mrs. Richards:

I am asking the auditor to send you a check for the total amount of the bills for the books which you sent to us recently. I am sending the check directly to you because the bills were made out to you personally and further because in our system the auditor desires any bill he pays to be charged directly to the department ordering the item.

I thought perhaps you would not object making out a check and forwarding to each publisher the amount of his bill, because it simplifies matters very much for our department.

Please accept my thanks again for the contribution of your time, your deep interest in securing these volumes, and above all for the splendid contribution you have made to Maine literature.

Sincerely yours,

State Librarian.

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner,  
Maine.

From the "Watertown Sun", January 10, 1929.

L. E. R.

Dear Mr. Dummer,  
Would you, perhaps, like  
to reprint the enclosed in  
your April Bulletin?  
I should be very glad if you would.  
And - would you like a copy of  
my son John's "Songs of a Schoolmaster"  
for your collection? I should greatly  
like to have that noticed too.  
Always sincerely yours,  
Lawrence Richards

OVER

"The Story Of An Opened Door"

There has come from the pen of Laura E. Richards in her latest book, "Laura Bridgman: the story of an opened door." (D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1928), a highly important and definitive work. It is important in that it tells in a fascinating and illuminating way the deathless tale of how Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, finding in her farmhouse home in New Hampshire a little girl, doubly handicapped by blindness and deafness, brought her to the institution for the blind, which he had recently established, and set himself to discover a way into her mind, to which the channels of sight and hearing were wholly sealed.

It is definitive in that it will not be granted to a succeeding generation to glean fresh material, with which to enrich the time-honored accounts, and to weave the whole into an absorbing narrative, as has now been done by Mrs. Richards, daughter of Dr. Howe and herself a namesake of his famous pupil, who writes with the enthusiasm of an eye witness of this vital adventuring, which unfolded like a drama before her.

There was no blazed trail that Dr. Howe could follow in carrying out his great task of educating a deaf-blind child; but in the face of expert opinion that the thing could not be done he did it and thereby hewed out a path in the waste places which forever made easier for all like Laura Bridgman, who have come after her, the toilsome ascent of the Hill of Difficulty. But more than that: it formed a distinct contribution to the whole range of education and human uplift, giving courage and incentive to all earnest seekers of the unquenchable flame.

Mrs. Richards has dedicated her book in affectionate regard to Edward E. Allen, successor to her father as head of Perkins Institution; and Dr. William H. Burnham of Clark University, in a gracious foreword, has paid tribute to the writer, her beautifully told story and the achievement it signalizes.

Read this book. You will be thrilled by it; and you will gain a new sense of the indomitable faith that moves mountans.

—Anna G. Fish, Perkins Institution.

In accordance with Mrs. Richards's request, this item was  
reprinted in the maine library bulletin, July , 1929

February 9, 1929

Mrs. Henry Richards,  
Gardiner, Maine.

My dear Mrs. Richards;-

Thank you for calling my attention to your new book on Laura Bridgman. I shall, of course, take great pleasure in noting its publication in our Library Bulletin, and I hope that space will permit us to reprint in full the very interesting review which you so thoughtfully sent us.

I shall be delighted to have a copy of your son's book, "Songs of a schoolmaster," to add to the Maine Author Collection. Will you please send us some biographical data in regard to him for our Who's Who of Maine poets?

I greatly appreciate the interest which you show in the Maine State Library and in the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

February 12 1930

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner, Maine

My dear Mrs. Richards;-

I find that although we have a copy of your "Laura Bridgman" in the general library, for lending purposes, we do not have a copy of it in the Maine Author Collection. Since we take both pride and pleasure in the fact that we have, thanks to your generosity, a complete set of your works in this collection we are sending you a copy of Laura Bridgman, with the request that you autograph and inscribe it for us, as you have done the other books which you have written.

Very truly yours,

Gardiner, Maine.  
Feb. 14, 1929.

Dear Mr. Dunnaok:

I sent you the "Songs of a Schoolmaster", and I feel sure that they will appeal to you. John Richards, my second son, has been for years a Master at St. Paul's School. He is now forty-five years of age. He is a graduate of Groton School and of Harvard College. When America entered the World War, he enlisted as a private, rose to the rank of Second and then First Lieutenant, was severely wounded, and returned after the Armistice to resume his school duties. He is unmarried.

The next time he is at home, perhaps you will come down some afternoon with the little book in your pocket and he will inscribe it personally for you. You have not been down at all this winter. Remember that there is always, or nearly always, a cup of tea at half past four, and a very warm welcome.

I want you to read "Laura Bridgman" yourself, if Librarians ever have time to read anything. I think the story cannot fail to interest you, and all who have the cause of Education at heart.

Believe me,

Always faithfully yours,

Laura E. Richards

GARDINER, MAINE

Feb. 17, 1930.

Dear Mr. Dunnaok:

I have gladly inscribed the copy of "Laura Bridgman", and send it to you by this mail. I hope people will read it, for it is a story that ought not to be forgotten.

It is a long time since I saw you. Are you not coming down some day to have a cup of tea with me?

By the way, I always read with great interest the Library Reports and Bulletins, which are full of good and valuable material. Do you know that in all the lists of books for young people's reading, etc., I never see my name? Of course the new books must necessarily take precedence, but I think sometimes it would be a good plan to resurrect the elder writers of the generation, and even of a previous generation; to have a word about Miss Jewett now and then, and about "Sophie May" (Miss Clark of Norridgewock). The frantic rush and hurry of new books crowds the elder people to the wall. I suppose this is for the most part inevitable, but it has occurred to me that the libraries might do something toward preserving what may have a value of its own.

Always faithfully yours,

*Laura Richards*



February 21, 1930

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner, Maine.

My dear Mrs. Richards;-

Thank you for inscribing for us the Maine Author Collection copy of your Laura Bridgman. The quotations from your father's noble words add much to the interest of the volume as an item in the collection. As you probably know, the Maine Author collection is an exhibition, not a loan, collection of books, but we have had a copy of the book in the general library for some time.

I sent you this week several recent issues of the Bulletin which contain mention of some of the authors of another generation, Miss Jewett and Sophie Mayam, also, the issue which contains the notice of Laura Bridgman which you sent us. Most of our book notes are about current books, except when we have special articles like the one on Sophie May.

I hope that I shall soon have the pleasure of having tea with you. It is always a great pleasure to have an opportunity to talk with you about the many things which interest us both.

Sincerely yours

April 1, 1920

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner,  
Maine.

Dear Madam:

We are making our Library Bulletin  
for April a special Maine number, one section  
of which will present Maine writers of today.

Would you please send us a photo-  
graph and any personal notes that we can use  
in preparing this sketch. A prompt response  
to this request will be very greatly appre-  
ciated. I am

Sincerely yours,

HED/od.

Dear Mr. Dunnack,

Pray pardon my delay!  
I thought you might like  
a full autograph copy, and  
have not seemed to find the  
time till now.

Always faithfully yours,

Laura E. Richards

May 15<sup>th</sup>  
1930

I send the poem under  
another cover, to keep it flat.

The Legion Poppy.

19

The Poppy of the Legion,

They blaze along the street,  
So long ago, "in Flanders Field";  
They blossomed in the wheat.

The message that they sent us then  
Is still the word today:  
"Remember! ah, remember!"

The scarlet poppy say.

Remember those who gave their lives,  
The valiant souls at peace;  
But, pray you, think of those who live,  
And find but little ease.

The broken ones, the weary ones,  
Who - was it yesterday?  
Gave gladly up their youth, and still  
The need of War must pay.

They tell us War is dying;  
But still his deadly hand  
Lies cruel hard on those who served  
Beneath his grim command,

Be over the pride, be over the joy,  
Their silent call to meet,  
And gather every poppy bright  
That shines along the street!

Laura Richards

Written April 10 - 1930,  
for the Benj. E. Smith Post,  
American Legion Auxiliery of Gardiner.

May 21 1930

Mrs. Laura E. Richards,  
Gardiner, Maine.

My dear Mrs. Richards;-

"Poppies" is one of the loveliest poems I have seen in a long while. I have shown it to the various members of the library staff and every one of them has been as enthusiastic about it as I am.

I hope that you will accord us the privilege of printing it in the July issue of the Library Bulletin. I feel that so choice a thing should have as wide a circulation as possible. I think that our librarians will not only enjoy it, but they will find it a delightful addition to their collections of verse appropriate for Memorial and Armistice Day use.

Thank you for sending me a manuscript copy of "Poppies". I am continually your debtor!

Very truly yours,

MCF

Gardiner

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1930

Dear Mr. Dunnack,

I shall be very glad  
to have you print "Poppin" in  
the Literary Bulletin. It  
is a pleasure indeed to  
know that the simple  
verses appeal to you.

I think you should mention  
that the poem was written  
for the Benj. E. Smith  
(I think it is "E.!") Post etc.

Why don't you come to see me?

Always sincerely yours.

Laurel Richards

GARDINER, MAINE

Oct. 18, 1933.

Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller,  
Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Mrs. Fuller:

By all means bring the book down.  
I shall be delighted to autograph it, of  
course, and shall also be very glad indeed  
to have the pleasure of making your acquaint-  
ance. I am almost always here in the lat-  
ter part of the afternoon. How would Friday  
or Saturday do? There is always a cup of  
tea at half past four.

Very sincerely yours,

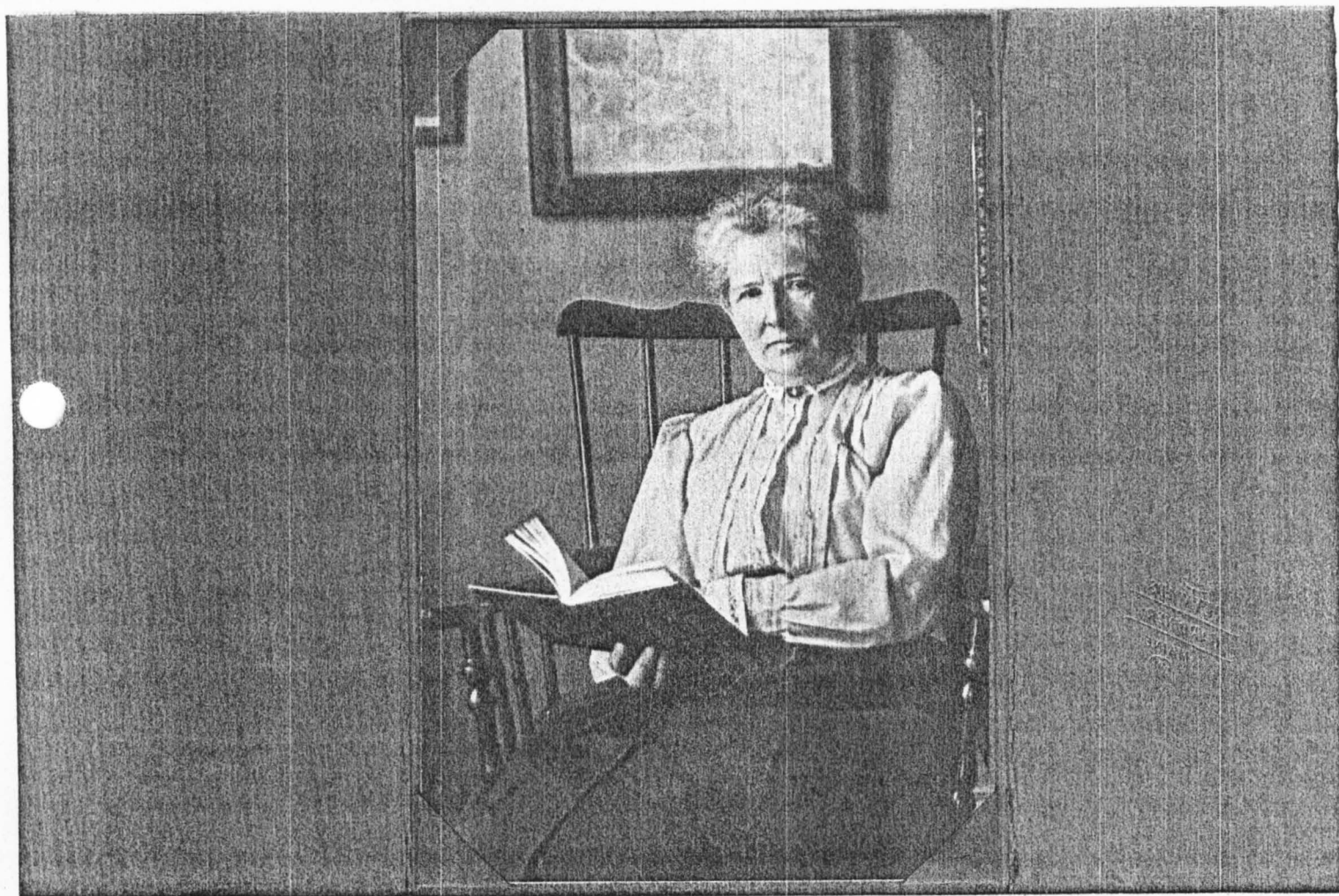
*How about Giva  
Livia?*

*Laura Richards*

RICHARDS, Laura E.

An American author, born in Boston February 27, 1850. Daughter of Samuel Gridley and Julia Ward How, and sister of Henry Marion Howe. Married Henry Richards of Gardiner, Maine, in 1871. Address: Gardiner, Maine. Her many writings, consist largely of stories, juvenile and others.

On the following pages is a complete list of the works of Mrs. Richards with the exceptions of the following titles: The Little Master, A Happy Little Twin, The Hurdy Gurdy, The Piccolo.





Richards, Laura E.

Hildegarde-Margaret Series:

Queen Hildegarde.

Inscription: My first "book for girls". Its faults are obvious, but it is so well-meant!  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Hildegarde's Holiday.

Inscription: I have always regretted the grotesque name "Chirk" with which I saddled two young people in this story. It is too late to change it!  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Hildegarde's Home.

Inscription: How one mother and daughter lived together.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Hildegarde's Neighbors.

Inscription: The Merryweathers have certain traits of resemblance to various members of my own family.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Hildegarde's Harvest.

Inscription: The Inevitable.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Three Margarets.

Inscription: The first volume of my second series of girl-books.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Margaret Montfort.

Inscription: Some people think Margaret Montfort "a little too good", but she seems to me very real for all that.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Peggy.

Inscription: "Peggy" has always been a favorite of mine. The "Snowy Owl" is very like my dear daughter Julia.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Rita.

Inscription: Certainly no one can call Rita "too good"; still, I am fond of her.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Fernley House.

Inscription: "Fernley House" is something like "Vanchin", a beautiful old place near Newport, R. I. where I spent much time as a child. It is now unhappily fallen into ruin.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Merryweathers.

Inscription: Many of the happenings in this book are true. "Camp Merryweather" was named after this half-imaginary family.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Captain January Series:

Captain January.

Inscription: The most popular of all my stories. It came up out of the sea to me, as I sat on the rocks of Mount Desert.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Melody.

Inscription: "Mindful of naught but peace, and of a child". Sidney Lanier.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Marie.

Inscription: "Best is the song with mine interwoven"  
Austin Dobson.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Rosin the Beau.

Inscription: "D'Arthenay, tenez foi!"  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Snow-White.

Inscription: There is nothing special to say about this little story, except that it amused me to write it.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Jim of Hellas.

Inscription: "Jim" was a real person, a real sailor, much beloved by me in my early childhood.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Narcissa.

Inscription: Driving along a dreary road, I saw a pretty girl feeding white turkeys; she gave me this little story.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

"Some Say"

Inscription: "There's only one thing the matter with you; you want a wife!"  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

- Isla Heron.  
Inscription: Written after my first visit to Monhegan, twenty-five years ago.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Nautilus.  
Inscription: The white schooner actually came up our river, with her deck, handsome captain and her cargo of shells. I have some of them still.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Joan of Arc.  
Inscription: "Rouen, Rouen, shall I die here? \*\*\*\*\* Ah, Rouen, I have great fear thou must suffer for my death". Joan of Arc, 1431.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Elizabeth Fry..  
Inscription: "I am ready to say, in the fullness of my heart, 'surely it is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes'". Elizabeth Fry. 1813.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Abigail Adams.  
Inscription: "May the foundation of our new Constitution be Justice, Truth, Righteousness." Abigail Adams, 1776.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Two Noble Lives.  
Inscription: Written after the death of my beloved mother.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura Richards, 1922.
- Julia Ward Howe. Vol. 1.  
Inscription: "But while I am searching, scanning  
A lesson none ask to hear.  
My life writeth out thy sentence  
Divinely just and dear".  
Julia Ward Howe.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Joint author with  
Maude Howe Elliott.  
Inscription: "What have thy servants for their pains?  
'This only--to have tried.'" Julia Ward Howe.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.
- Julia Ward Howe. Vol. 2.  
Inscription: "What have thy servants for their pains?  
'This only--to have tried.'" Julia Ward Howe.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Journals and Letters of Samuel Gridley Howe.

The Greek Revolution.

Inscription: "O for a knight like Bayard,  
Without reproach or fear!"

J. G. Whittier.

Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Servant of Humanity.

Inscription: "Obstacles are things to be overcome." S.G.H.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Florence Nightingale.

Inscription: "Choose your path, go on with it, wherever it  
may lead you, and God be with you!"  
Dr. Howe to Florence Nightingale, 1843.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Quicksilver Sue.

Inscription: "I drink to the health of Quicksilver Sue;  
May she shun the false and seek the true!"  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Armstrongs.

Inscription: I have always liked this little book, but  
the "letter" form has been rather against  
it".  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

A Daughter of Jehu.

Inscription: "When the Duke of Lee would married be  
To a gentlewoman of high quality,  
How happy would that gentlewoman be  
When she's blest with the Duke's good company!"  
Old Song.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Five Mice in a Mouse Trap.

Inscription: One of my earliest books. It is pleasant  
to find that children still read it.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Five Minute Stories.

Inscription: Written when John and Betty were little,  
Betty's children read it now.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

More Five Minute Stories.

Inscription: "The children at Cliff Lawn" have children  
of their own now; perhaps--who knows?--  
they may read some of these old stories  
to the new children.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

For Tommy.

Inscription: Just a little book of cheerful stories--  
part of which are true.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards.

Geoffrey Strong.

Inscription: My first "novel"--if it can be called a  
novel! Mrs. True makes her first appearance  
here.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Golden Windows.

Inscription: "I have learned that our house has windows  
of gold and diamond".  
The Golden Windows.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards.

Grandmother.

Inscription: "Golden mast and a cedar paddle,  
For to set my spirit free!"  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Green Satin Gown.

Inscription: Nothing special to say about these little  
stories, except that one of them, "Blue  
Egyptians" is founded (more or less!)  
on fact.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Honor Bright.

Inscription: "Four corners to my bed,  
Four angels round my head.  
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,  
Bless the bed that I lie on!"  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

In Blessed Cyrus.

Inscription: "A visit to Cyrus was like the giant touch  
of Mother Earth, and always set me up  
again in mind and body."  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

In My Nursery.

Inscription: To My Mother.  
"If I chant my little lays  
Tunefully, be yours the praise;  
If I fail, 'tis I must rue  
Not t' have closelier followed you."  
1890  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Joyous Story of Toto.

Inscription: "Toto" came to please my children, and now he does his best to please my grandchildren.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Toto's Merry Winter.

Inscription: More about Toto's merry days and ways.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Love and Rocks.

Inscription: A little story of Monhegan where I left my heart many years ago.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Miss Jimmy.

Inscription: "Miss Jimmy" is something of a portrait-sketch of a very dear woman.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Mrs. Tree.

Inscription: "Cat's foot"! said Mrs. Tree.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Mrs. Tree's Will.

Inscription: "I, Marcia Darracott Tree, being of sound mind, which is more then most folks I know are-----".  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

On Board the Mary Sands.

Inscription: The third and last of the Calvin Parks series; yet it should be read before the second!  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Pig Brother.

Inscription: The Pig Brother gone to school, to teach the children.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Pig Brother Play Book.

Inscription; With the help of this book the children can play "Pig Brother" themselves.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

Pippin.

Inscription: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

The Silver Crown.

Inscription: "The way is long to your kingdom and the time short."  
The Silver Crown.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by Laura E. Richards, 1922.

## Three Minute Stories.

Inscription: Very, very few  
Of these tales are true!  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

## To Arms!

Inscription: We all served as we could, in word and deed;  
these little rhymes helped me if no one else,  
through the long time.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

## Up to Calvin's.

Inscription: "So in the heart of the sailor men is  
always sounding the call of the sea."  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

## The Wooing of Calvin Parks.

Inscription: "Now Renzo was a sailor!"  
Calvin Parks' song.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

## When I was Your Age.

Inscription: This is the only one of my stories that  
is all true from beginning to end.  
Inscribed for the Maine State Library by  
Laura E. Richards, 1922.

# To Be Honored on 85th Birthday by Publication of Her Biography



**MRS. LAURA E. RICHARDS**

Photo by J. J.

In appropriate observance of the 85th birthday of the authoress, Mrs. Laura E. Richards, her latest book, "Samuel Gridley Howe", a biography of her father, will be published by Appleton-Century on Wednesday, February 27. The noted daughter of a noted man and a famous mother has written the story of the life of her father, who is best described by Mrs. Richards herself as a "constructive philanthropist".

Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe was the founder and for 40 years director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston. One of the handsomest men of his day, Dr. Howe, following his graduation from Brown University and Harvard Medical School led a life of adventure as a young man when he went to Greece and served throughout the Greek War of Independence as surgeon to the Greek Army and later to the fleet.

It was during this period that he took the first step in what was to be his life of constructive philanthropy by supplying the starving wives and children of Greek soldiers with clothing and stores obtained from America and setting them to work.

Returning to America, he was at once asked to take charge of the State School for the Blind in Massachusetts which at that time existed only on paper. The biography gives a graphic account of what Dr.

Howe did for Laura Bridgman, the blind deaf mute. He began his sympathetic training for the great work by taking six blind children into his father's house, having previously blind-folded his own eyes so as to know their problems and fears.

Woven into the biography is the account of the many friendships Dr. Howe formed through his amazing personality and his work—friendships with Thomas Carlyle, Horace Mann, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Sumner, Edward Everett Hale and many other people of the day who were prominent in history and literature. It also tells the story of Dr. Howe's Civil War activities, when his wife, by his side he did valiant service in the camps and hospitals.

While Dr. Howe's main work was among the blind, he devoted much of his time to work among the feeble-minded and insane and to all who were in sickness, need of tribulation. He died in 1876 at the age of 75.

"The Life of Samuel Gridley Howe," briefly, the story of a life of absolute devotion is Mrs. Richards' first book in four years. She spent the better part of two years in the writing of this biography after having edited her father's letters and journals many years ago. Her last book was "Stepping Westward," her autobiography published in 1931.



February 28, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

May we add our word of appreciation to the homage which is being paid you doubly this week, on account of your eighty-fifth birthday and the publication of another book, "Samuel Gridley Howe."

We assure you that we anticipate with eagerness this volume, and hope that we are to be honored by receiving an autographed copy from you for our Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

GARDINER, MAINE

March 15, 1935.

Dear Miss McLeod:

Thanks for your kind birthday greeting. It was pleasant to hear from you.

As to the "Samuel Gridley Howe", I shall be delighted to autograph a copy of it, but I fear I haven't one to send you. You see I have two libraries here, to which I have given copies. A few years ago, Mr. Dunnack started his collection of Maine authors, and provided a complete set of my books for me to autograph. I do not know whether he has given up this pleasant custom, but I have not heard from him since the publication of "Stepping Westward", "Tirra Lirra", or "Samuel Gridley Howe". You perhaps may have some idea of the number of requests that I receive. I would gladly present all my books to the State Library, but I do not feel able to do so.

With kind regards,  
Faithfully yours,

*Laura I. Richards*

March 16, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Thank you for your kind letter in regard to the new book, SAMUEL GRIDLEY HOWE. We are having a copy of this book sent to you, and are hoping that you will be kind enough to inscribe it for us. We enclose a label and postage for forwarding.

We find that both STEPPING WESTWARD and TERRA LIRRA are included among your books in the Maine Author Collection, and are inscribed under the date of October, 1933.

We appreciate your interest in our Author Collection, and assure you that we will endeavor to have all your books on its shelves. May we again congratulate you upon this splendid biography, and wish for you many years of such fine literary work.

Very truly yours  
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

April 6, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

We have received SAMUEL GRIDLEY HOWE, which you so kindly inscribed for us, and we sincerely thank you.

We are ordering copies for our general circulation, also. It is truly a splendid biography of a splendid man and we are proud that we can claim its author as a Maine woman.

Very truly yours  
Maine State Library

lm

Secretary

September 10, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Because we dislike to lack any one of your books from our Maine Author Collection, we have requested the publishers to forward you a copy of MERRY-GO-ROUND. A return label and postage are enclosed for your convenience, and we hope that you will be so kind as to inscribe this volume for us.

Reviewers have been very complimentary, and we assure you that this book of poems will receive a warm welcome at the library.

Very truly yours  
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

# Rhyming at Eighty-Five Comes Easy To Gardiner Author, Mrs. Richards

37

By Alice Frost Lord

"What do you want here! You're a stranger! Look out!"

That is what this black and white setter said, with an unmistakable growl.

A touch on the latch of the white-fence gate at Gardiner's big Yellow House, long famous in Maine literature, hardly had been made when his majesty, guardian of the mansion, appeared, ambling down the walks between the blossoming pansy and forgetmenot beds.

But the other side of the canine argument was belying; for the setter's tail wagged back and forth in friendliest fashion, as if he were the gladdest beast in Gardiner over a new-comer.

Which to believe, the growl or the wag! I took a chance with the wag, found the doorbell which has rung for many a distinguished star in the literary world, and soon made peace with the attendant. Mrs. Laura E. Richards knew I was coming.

There is something about Mrs. Richards that makes a person willing to grow old. She is proof it can be done satisfactorily and even beautifully. Here in the "fore-room," stacked all about with mementoes of a notable New England family, until one feels as if one were in a miniature "Old Curiosity Shop," one marvels at the work she has turned out at that compact, littered desk in the jog over against the North window. Here one can wait happily, any length of time, there is so much to see!

But it was only a few moments when rather substantial steps were heard coming down the stairs. Ride tho she might in her private home-escalator, she chose to walk down, with vigorous tread. She would ride up later, inviting her guest to share the novelty of the experience which children especially enjoy and adults seldom scorn.

Gray gowned, with soft white scarf, blue-eyed, gentle and keen of countenance, with active working hands that reveal passing years not too much, Mrs. Richards would pass for a woman in the early seventies.

Easy-chairs drawn closely in front of the open fireplace in the living room made conversation friendly. There was no boasting over a long life of literary achievement; yet there was a note of pride in her voice, especially in reference to her last book, which is the biography of her father, Samuel Gridley Howe. It is the 11th from D. Appleton and Co., which is by no means her record among her seven publishers, L. C. Page Co. holding the honors with 51! Believe it or not!

"And you have a new book on the way" I asked, certain that I had seen hints of continuing activity by this Gardiner author.

"Yes," she replied, happily. "Appleton is bringing out 'Merry-Go-Round' next fall."

Think of a mind alert and creative enough for this, at four-score and five!

"You've been rhyming in print for a long time!" I commented, wondering when her initial volume of this sort came out for children.

"Yes. My first came out in 1881



Mrs. Laura E. Richards, Author

and has delighted two generations."

There was the book on her shelf, in another crowded room up-stairs, in this fascinating old house. It stood among a personal collection of her own works; and it bore the combined initials of herself and her husband, L. E. R. and H. E. R., the latter for Henry Richards, with whom she has just celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary.

Other books of rhymes by Mrs. Richards include "Five Mice in a Mouse-Trap," "In My Nursery," which came out in 1890, "Hurdy Gurdy" and "The Piccolo."

Then she turned to story-writing, which absorbed her attention for some years; and it was not until 1932 that rhyme again engaged her interest and she wrote "Tirra Lirra."

This particular book of rhyme has an especial excuse for being. For it was dedicated to John Richards, II, her youngest grandchild, and William Davis Ticknor, III, her eldest great-grandchild. One can imagine the joy she had in writing the dedicatory lines:

"Tirra, Lirra, Little John,  
Tirra, Lirra, tiny Bill,  
Take my hurdy gurdy, boys;  
Turn it with a will!  
But be sure, my little boys,  
That you make a joyful noise."

Then Mrs. Richards opened the book to the introductory chapter, written by Lamberton Becker, and passed it over.

"There's a reason," ran the text, "why these gay young verses should spring up from the roots and put out fresh blossoms after fifty years." Then came the explanation. There was a call from a professor for a frog poem, certain lines being quoted. The call was put into "Readers' Guide" and then referred to Mrs. Richards. This ended in the Maine author being asked to write more verse, and she wrote "The Hurdy Gurdy" which has been "turning furiously ever since."

Richards' fans among the children, therefore, can look forward to a new book from her pen for Christmas. Little, Brown Company will bring out "Merry-Go-Round" in October.

After that? Oh, well, there are sure to be more!

September 26, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

MERRY-GO-ROUND has been received at the library,  
and we are as usual delighted to add another of your  
books to the Maine Author Collection. It is such  
a charming collection of verse - surely it will  
appeal to children! Thank you for so kindly  
inscribing the volume, and accept our congratulations  
upon such an achievement of "brilliant nonsense," as  
your publishers aptly write.

Very truly yours  
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

October 22, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Recently we purchased for the Maine Author Collection a copy of *SUNG UNDER THE SILVER UMBRELLA*, a most delightful collection of children's verse. We wish to have it autographed by the four Maine authors represented in the book: Edna St. Vincent Millay, Elizabeth Coatsworth, Rachel Field, and you. For that purpose, therefore, we are mailing the book to you today, and trust that with your usual kind cooperation you will autograph it. We assure you of our appreciation.

Very truly yours  
Maine State Library

hm

Secretary



November 1, 1935

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Thank you very much for autographing the  
copy of SUNG UNDER THE SILVER UMBRELLA for our  
Maine Author Collection. Your kindness and  
interest are, as ever, appreciated.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

hm

Secretary

August 19, 1936

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

We have purchased a copy of your wonderfully sympathetic book, E. A. R., for the Maine Author Collection, and are sending it to you today, hoping you will continue your past graciousness by inscribing the volume for us.

This is indeed a fitting tribute which you have put into book form: a tribute of love and admiration, splendid in its simplicity, for our great poet.

It is with pride that we include the little volume in the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

hm

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

SECRETARY

December 23, 1936

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

I have received the copy of PLEASE!,  
which you so graciously presented to the  
Maine State Library, and I am delighted.

Please accept my very sincere thanks  
for this most interesting little book,  
and my cordial greetings and good wishes  
at this season.

Very truly yours

HED/hm

State Librarian

March 18, 1937

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

It is with forebodings that we learn of the exhausted edition of E. A. R. We do not wonder, however, for it should have appealed to many, and evidently did.

Our forebodings are caused by the fact that we neglected to order an extra copy for the Edwin Arlington Robinson Collection, and now it seems almost impossible for us to find one.

We are writing to you, hoping that you may have a copy of this delightful little book which you may be willing to part with for the sake of our Robinson collection. If you do have a copy, and are willing, will you please use the enclosed label to send it to us, and also send us a bill for the book.

If it is at all possible for you to help us secure E. A. R., we will appreciate your kindness very, very much.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

GARDINER, MAINE

March 22, 1937.

Miss Hilda McLeod, Sec'y,  
Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Miss McLeod:

I am sending you herewith a copy  
of "E.A.R." for your Robinson Collection.  
I don't think I would part with it to anyone  
else.

I ask nothing for it, except a con-  
tinuation of the constant good-will and  
friendliness which make the Library so help-  
ful to all writers.

Faithfully yours,

*Lawrence Richards*

March 25, 1937

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

What words are there to express our deep appreciation of your interest and kindness which make possible the addition of your book, E. A. R., to the Robinson Collection!

You may be assured of what you complimentarily call our "constant goodwill and friendliness." We have an abundance of it, but all that we might extend to you of these qualities would not show you our sincere gratitude for this book. Thank you!

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

April 26, 1937

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

We have a copy of your delightful new book, HARRY IN ENGLAND, which we will add to the Maine Author Collection. Remembering your past interest and kindness, we are sending this book to you today, and asking if you will inscribe it for us.

It is indeed a charming book, and one which will quickly earn appreciation from both children and adults.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

lm

SECRETARY

May 3, 1937

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Thank you very much for inscribing  
the Maine Author Collection <sup>copy</sup> of HARRY IN  
ENGLAND.

It is always a distinct pleasure to  
add one of your books to this collection,  
and especially these " partly-true adventures  
of H. R."

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

lm

SECRETARY



September 21, 1938

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

A copy of I HAVE A SONG TO SING YOU will arrive at your door sometime soon, for we have requested Campbell's Book Store to send you one. Will you be so very kind as to inscribe it for the Maine Author Collection? A label and postage are enclosed for your convenience.

The traveling libraries are already carrying copies of this delightful book to young readers, and we anticipate including it with your others in the collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm  
Encls.

SECRETARY

September 26, 1938

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Thank you for inscribing I HAVE A SONG TO SING  
YOU for the Maine Author Collection. It is indeed  
a most appealing book, and we are delighted to add it  
to your other volumes.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

Pleasant Street,  
Gardiner, Maine.

50

May 17, 1940

To the Librarian,  
The Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

My dear Sir:

For the celebration of the ninetieth birthday of Laura E. Richards, on February 27th last, a group of her friends and neighbors compiled a Birthday Volume, "Laura E. Richards and Gardiner," giving a brief record of Mrs. Richards' life in Maine. To quote the preface -

"The following papers are in three groups: Mrs. Richards' appeals and statements concerning town welfare works, to which she and her husband have devoted themselves since their first coming to Gardiner in 1876; her obituary notices of beloved friends and fellow-workers; and a few verses -- together with three Fables -- which have been chosen as especially characteristic of their writer."

On taking counsel with Mrs. Richards' family, as to where she would like to have copies of this birthday volume sent, the sponsors of the book have learned that it will give her much pleasure to have a copy placed in the Maine State Library.

If you approve of this, and will signify the Library's willingness to accept the volume, it will be duly sent.

For the sponsors of the Laura E. Richards Birthday Volume,

*Maria B. Robinson, per R.R.*

*Please answer to*

*Mrs. J. W. Robinson,  
Pleasant Street  
Gardiner  
Maine.*

May 22, 1940

Mrs. J. W. Robinson  
Pleasant Street  
Gardiner, Maine

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

The kindness of Mrs. Richards, in being pleased to have presented to the State Library a copy of LAURA E. RICHARDS AND GARDINER, is gratifying; and the library will be delighted to accept this most interesting gift.

Please express to Mrs. Richards our appreciation of her generosity.

Very truly yours

hmj

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

Old, El. 1000

May 28, 1940

Mrs. J. W. Robinson  
Pleasant Street  
Gardiner, Maine

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

Please accept our sincere thanks for the  
copy of LAURA E. RICHARDS AND GARDINER, which  
we are including in the Maine State Library  
with pleasure.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

April 11, 1940

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

With disappointment we notice that the  
Maine Author Collection cannot yet boast of  
a copy of THE HOTTENTOT AND OTHER DITTIES,  
nor of WHAT SHALL THE CHILDREN READ?

Your books are so complete that we of  
course regret the absence of these two, and  
we hope that you will want to inscribe and  
present them for the exhibit. We take  
pride in claiming you as a Maine author,  
and trust that you will share our feeling  
that the lack of these two books should not  
continue.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

Gardiner, Maine  
April 26, 1940

Mrs. Francis H. Jacob  
Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mrs. Jacob:

It has heretofore been the pleasant custom of  
your library to send me copies of my new books, which  
I gladly autographed.

If this is no longer convenient to you, I will  
send to the publishers for copies, having none at present.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

*Laura E. Richards*

April 29, 1940

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Thank you for your letter of April 26.

We will secure quotations upon your books, and order them sent directly to you, notifying you when the order is placed.

Your willingness to add an inscription in each is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY



June 27, 1940

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Under separate cover we are sending to you  
a copy of WHAT SHALL THE CHILDREN READ?, which  
we lack in the Maine Author Collection.

Enclosed you will find a return label and  
postage.

Will you be so kind as to inscribe this  
volume for inclusion in the exhibit, and return  
it to us?

Very truly yours

hmj  
Encls--2

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

July 3, 1940

Mrs. Laura E. Richards  
Gardiner  
Maine

Dear Mrs. Richards:

Please accept our sincere thanks for  
taking the time to inscribe the Maine Author  
Collection copy of WHAT SHALL THE CHILDREN READ?,  
which we are delighted to include.

Very truly yours,

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hmj

SECRETARY

# Impressive Ceremony Marks Unveiling of Richards' Tablet

58

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1944

## News from Wint

### Observe Flora and Pomona Night

At the regular meeting of Win-  
richards Memorial tablet were  
made at a special meeting of the  
Gardiner Library Association held  
Wednesday afternoon at the Gard-  
ner Public Library. August 30 was  
set as the date for the unveiling of  
the tablets and a committee was ap-  
pointed to prepare an appropriate  
program for the occasion, to which  
the public and friends of the li-  
brary and Laura E. Richards will  
be invited.

John Richards was named chair-  
man of the committee, with other  
members as follows: Charles A.  
Knight, J. M. L. Bates, Bernard  
Lucas, Philip E. Lamb, Mrs. J. Wal-  
ter Robinson and Miss Rosalind  
Richards. Invitations will be sent  
to the donors to the Richards  
Memorial Fund, it was decided, and  
a committee will be appointed to  
consider an annual ceremony.

Members voted to accept the  
Laura E. Richards Memorial Fund,  
contributions to which have been  
made by friends of the late author  
from all parts of the country as well  
as locally.

A drawing of the tablet which  
will be unveiled at the library on  
August 30, and which is being given  
by the Richards family, was shown  
to members of the association. Sam-  
uel D. Soule, president of the as-  
sociation, presided at the meeting.



—Kennebec Journal Photo

**AT THE UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL TABLET IN HONOR OF LAURA E. RICHARDS**—held Wednesday afternoon at the Gardiner Public Library, Arthur Dehon Hill, Boston attorney is pictured making the memorial address in front of the tablet which is flanked by photographs of Mrs. Richards and her mother, Julia Ward Howe.

Concluding with the words, "And shall not loveliness be loved forever?" Arthur Dehon Hill, Boston attorney, reviewed the life and character of Laura E. Richards at the unveiling of a tablet in memory of the late author held Wednesday afternoon at the Gardiner Public Library. Scholars, friends and townspeople attended the ceremonies in memory of Mrs. Richards and the acceptance of the fund that has been given in her memory.

The tablet, carved by Gregory Wiggins of Pomfret, Conn., well known artist and brother of the late Charles Wiggins, Mrs. Richards' son-in-law, was unveiled by Henry Howe Richards, son of the late poet, and Stanley P. Chase of Bowdoin College, gave readings from Mrs. Richards' poems and fables.

Charles A. Knight of Gardiner, chairman of the memorial committee, paid tribute to Mrs. Richards and her husband Henry Richards, who attended the ceremony, and said that 294 contributors had given a fund that is already past the \$4000 mark, with gifts from the United States, Canada and England.

Mr. Hill, speaking as a man who had been privileged to know Mrs. Richards, paid tribute to her as "wife, mother, citizen, and admired and successful authoress," outlining her family background with its stimulating flow of ideas and "passionate belief in political freedom."

Of Mrs. Richards' literary career Mr. Hill said, "Often she struck a high note. Her fables are among the best ever written. . . . Many of

her songs are worthy of a place in Anglo-Saxon literature that has no counterpart in any other literature." He mentioned also the so-called nonsense verses, comparable to the work of Lewis Carroll and Ogden Nash, with their light-hearted gallantry "touching on the mystery and absurdity of life."

"Mrs. Richards loved her fellow beings too well ever to feel hatred or contempt of an opponent," Mr. Hill said, "but she never succumbed to the weak pacifism that has been one of the banes of our time. . . . Her tolerance was based on her generous humility, and as years

went on, her depth of wisdom increased."

The author had stern and noble standards that taught her to make sources of new strength, Mr. Hill

continued, saying that the lines of her mother's hymn "O, be quick my soul to answer, be jubilant my feet," expresses well her spiritual qualities. Mentioning Camp Merryweather which Mr. Richards created with his wife as first mate, Mr. Hill said that the effect on the character of the boys who attended was profound. "To those who have known Mr. and Mrs. Richards best, it is almost impossible to think of one without the other," he said.

"A rare capacity for human relations and an instinct to give fellowship, especially to young people," were outstanding characteristics of Mrs. Richards, the speaker said. Mrs. Richards lived and died surrounded by people who loved her, he reminded her friends.

Mr. Chase, reading from her works, chose a welcome to Library Hall written in 1916 as his opening reading, followed by several fables from "The Golden Windows" and several children's poems, including "Little John Bottlejohn" and "The Poor Unfortunate Hottentot." He also read her "Dunkirk, June 1940," and a poem written by Lawrence McKinney and published in the New York Post in honor of Mrs. Richards' birthday in 1940.

The closing prayer was said by Rev. Tom G. Akeley, rector of Christ Church, followed by "America."

On the tablet, which hangs on the wall behind the desk in the main reading room, flanked by photographs of Mrs. Richards and her mother, Julia Ward Howe, is the following quotation:

"What else is wisdom?  
What of man's endeavor  
Or God's high grace  
So lovely and so great?  
To stand from fear set free,  
To breathe and wait,  
To hold a hand  
Uplifted over hate,  
And shall not loveliness  
Be loved forever?"

Among those who attended the unveiling were: Stanley Chase, head of the English Department at Bowdoin College and Mrs. Chase; Milton Ellis, professor at the University of Maine and Mrs. Ellis; Carl J. Weber of the Colby College faculty and Mrs. Weber; Arthur Dehon Hill of Boston of the Harvard Law School faculty and Mrs. Hill; Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Perkins and Mr. and Mrs. George Abbot of Boston; Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Henderson of Cambridge, Mass.; Harold J. Pulsifer of East Harpswell; Frank Kane of Montclair, N. J.; Mrs. D. H. Darling and Mrs. Elliot Bates of Cambridge; Miss Margaret Danforth of Boston; Mrs. Robert Ogg of San Francisco; Mrs. Ernest Cook, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cook and Miss Florence Cook of North Belgrade; Miss Abbie McBride and Mrs. Theresa Anderson representing the Maine Public Health Association; Miss Ruth Richards of New York; Mrs. William Tudor Gardiner and Miss Margaret Gardiner of Monsweag; Mrs. Marc Peter, Jr., of Washington, D. C., and Mr. and Mrs. John Reed of Boston.